

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
May 9, 2006

BLD920020007US1
Serial No. 10/065,745

REMARKS

Claims 1 – 11 remain in the application. Claims 1 is amended in this preliminary amendment. This Preliminary Amendment is being filed with a Request for Continued Examination. No new matter has been added.

The amendment to claim 1 is supported by the specification as originally filed and previously amended claim 6. No reference of record teaches or suggests “a sequencer which has an output port networked and communicating with, and directly connected to, the input ports of said plurality of raster image processors and an input port receiving a print data stream,” as recited in amended claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1 is believed to be patentable over all reference of record. Further, as set forth in the previously filed amendment after final, claims 2 – 11 are believed to be patentable over all reference of record. Independent consideration of all claims as amended and allowance of the present application is respectfully solicited.

The applicants note that MPEP §706 “Rejection of Claims,” subsection III, “PATENTABLE SUBJECT MATTER DISCLOSED BUT NOT CLAIMED” provides in pertinent part that

If the examiner is satisfied after the search has been completed that patentable subject matter has been disclosed and the record indicates that the applicant intends to claim such subject matter, he or she may note in the Office action that **certain aspects or features** of the patentable invention have not been claimed and that if properly claimed such claims **may be given favorable consideration**. (emphasis added.)

The applicants believe that the written description of the present application is quite different than, and not suggested by, any reference of record. Accordingly, should the Examiner believe anything further may be required, the Examiner is requested to contact

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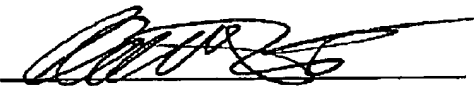
the undersigned attorney at the local telephone number listed below for a telephonic or personal interview to discuss any other changes.

Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to IBM Corporation Deposit Account No. 50-3669 and advise us accordingly.

Respectfully Submitted,

May 9, 2006
(Date)

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